

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 19526 151438Z

47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 151100Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9057

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, VS

SUBJECT: FLOOD DAMAGE IN MR-1

HW FOL TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO BIEN HOA CANTHO NHA VTRANG

FM DANANG 1210 14 NOV 73 REPT'D FOR UR INFO QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DANANG 1210

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, VS

SUBJECT: FLOOD DAMAGE IN MR-I

1. HEAVY MONSOON RAINS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, IN PART CAUSED BY THE FRINGE EFFECTS OF TROPICAL STORM SARAH, HAVE CAUSED EXTENSIVE FLOODING AND DAMAGE IN MR-I. LT. GEN. TRUONG, MR-I COMMANDER, ESTIMATES THAT 120,000 PEOPLE MAY NEED ASSISTANCE OF SOME SORT. AT HIS SUGGESTION, PRESIDENT THIEU WILL VISIT MR-I ON NOVEMBER 15 TO SURVEY THE SITUATION AND TO EMPHASIZE TO THE VARIOUS GVN AGENCIES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE RELIEF ACTION.

2. IT WILL PROBABLY BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE FULL EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE IS KNOWN. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY INFORMATION PROVIDED NOVEMBER 14 BY MR-I HEADQUARTERS, HOWEVER, SINCE

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 19526 151438Z

NOVEMBER 11, 19 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED AND 16 REPORTED

MISSING DUE TO TH FLOODS. 392 HOUSES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED MORE THAN 50 PERCENT. 10 BRIDGES AND CULVERTS HAVE BEEN DAMAGED ABOUT 50 PERCENT. 3,496 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EVACUATED, AND IN QUANG NGAI A NUMBER OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AREAS HAVE SUFFERED. TRAFFIC HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED IN MANY AREAS AND Q.L. 1 IS BLOCKED IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG NGAI, THE PROVINCES HARDEST HIT BY THE FLOOD. THUS FAR NO REGION-WIDE ESTIMATE OF CROP DAMAGE IS AVAILABLE.

3. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FROM QUANG NAM ARE THAT APPROXIMATELY 70 PERCENT OF ALL SECONDARY CROPS NOW IN THE GROUND ARE LOST AND THAT THE HOMES OF PERHAPS 100,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DAMAGED OVER 50 PERCENT.

4. IN QUANG NGAI THE FLOOD IS THOUGHT TO BE AT LEAST THE EQUAL OF THAT OF 1964. THE CONGEN'S PROVINCE OFFICE DIRECTOR REPORTS THAT WATER WAS 4 FEET HIGH IN HIS OFFICE AND LIVING COMPOUND AT THE HEIGHT OF THE FLOOD. FILES, SUPPLIES, AND MACHINES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND AT LEAST A WEEK WILL BE REQUIRED TO PUT THE OFFICE IN WORKING SHAPE AGAIN.

5. LT. GEN. TRUONG HAS ACTIVATED AN MR-I RELIEF COMMITTEE UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP. IT WAS REPORTED AT THE MR-I HEAD-

QUARTERS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 14 THAT FLOOD VICTIMS WILL RECEIVE A 7-DAY RICE ALLOWANCE OF 500 GRAMS PER DAY, A 6,000 PIASTER PAYMENT FOR HOUSES DAMAGED FROM 20 TO 50 PERCENT, AND A 10,000 PIASTER PAYMENT FOR HOUSES DAMAGED MORE THAN 50 PERCENT.

6. FLOOD WATERS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO RECEDE. WEATHER FORECASTS PREDICT CLEARING OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS, WHICH SHOULD FACILITATE RECOVERY EFFORTS.
POPPLE UNQTE APPLING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON19526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731131/aaaaawvy.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLOOD DAMAGE IN MR-1 HW FOL TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO BIEN HOA CANTHO NHA VTRANG
TAGS: PINT, ECON, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005